

# ALEXANDRIA HEARING AID CENTER

*Since 1955*

1429 Peterman Drive • Alexandria, Louisiana 71301 • (318) 443-6633

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October 9, 2000

Honorable Donna Shalala  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S. W.  
Room 615F  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am writing you to express my great concern over the proposed FDA ruling regarding the dispensing of hearing aids which is now in your department for review. If this proposed FDA ruling goes forward, my clients will be prohibited from selecting me as the provider of their hearing health care.

As a self-employed state licensed and nationally certified hearing aid dispenser for over 20 years, I am now in jeopardy of having my business ruined by this ruling allowing only audiologists "gatekeeper" status in the testing and fitting of hearing aids. A study commissioned by the International Hearing Society showed that **92% of hearing instrument specialists nationwide would be put out of business if this ruling went forward.**

Please don't allow the FDA to put forth this ruling. There is no medical data supporting that audiologists are necessary as the sole entry point. We know that only 20% of the hearing impaired population seeks help for a debilitating condition. Allowing audiologists to control the access to hearing health care will create more barriers for the indecisive and possibly drive up the costs for the use of amplification.

Sincerely,

*Jane D. O'Donnell*

Jane D. O'Donnell, BC-HIS

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Louisiana Board for Hearing Aid Dealers License #333  
National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences #1239

*Jane D. O'Donnell*

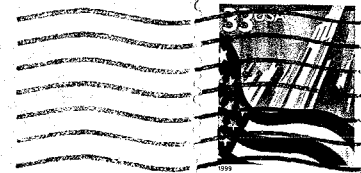
Member - Louisiana Society of Hearing Aid Specialists

Member - International Hearing Society

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*Jane D. O'Donnell*

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